



North America's Building Trades Unions

July 13, 2017

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The Honorable Tom McClintock
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McClintock and Ranking Member Hanabusa:

On behalf of the three million skilled craft professionals that comprise North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU), I am writing in support of H.R. 3115, the Superior National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2017.

Last year, I testified in front of the House Committee on Natural Resources on a similar federal lands issue. I explained in detail the hardship to NABTU members, and the construction industry as a whole, brought on by project delays. NABTU members. Our affiliated unions and their members rely on timely project approvals. This allows for us to plan ahead, train locally, and provide skilled craft workers to a project.

One example where the lack of a timely approval continues to adversely affect local NABTU members is the NorthMet mine in Minnesota. This project was subjected to over seven years of NEPA review before the Forest Service approved the land exchange in early January. Unfortunately, the administrative process for closing the transaction is not moving forward as quickly as it should. The result is NABTU members, and the much-needed middle-class jobs for a part of Minnesota that's hurting, remain on the sidelines.

In an effort to begin construction on the NorthMet mine, NABTU supports H.R. 3115, the Superior National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2017. This legislation enjoys bi-partisan support, reflects the desire to move this project forward, and provides finality for all parties. I ask that the subcommittee discuss NorthMet Land Exchange in its upcoming hearing and ultimately approve H.R. 3115.

I applaud your effort to revisit the federal delays that plague the construction industry and I look forward to working with you again in the future.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Sean McGarvey
President

Value on Display. EVERY DAY.